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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NC

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Bulgarian and Soviet Military Activity Near
the Yugoslav Border

DATE DISTR. 20 Oct. 1951

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Soviet Colonel Kolokolov recently took over command of the Bozhurishte Airfield from a Bulgarian officer. Kolokolov is alleged to be a member of the MGB. A Soviet army unit, believed to be assigned for police duty, is also stationed at the field.

2. There are 64 aircraft on the field of which 15 are new type, but otherwise unspecified, Soviet models. The balance of the planes are older Soviet and German models, including an unknown number of bombers.
3. A special hangar houses 13 Soviet aircraft painted with Yugoslav Air Force colors. No Bulgarians are permitted near this hangar. The Soviets explain that the planes were destined for Tito prior to the break in relations and are to be handed over when the misunderstanding is cleared up.
4. Large numbers of Soviet officers are attached to Bulgarian units of regimental level and up. There are also many Soviet military police on duty in garrisons with jurisdiction over Bulgarian troops.
5. Many Soviet tanks are reportedly in Sofia. Most of them are unmanned; the balance are manned with Bulgarian crews.
6. Heavy mortars on carts (sic) are arriving daily in Sofia for transshipment to unknown destinations. For example, on 4 October 1951, 200 mortars arrived. These mortars are always accompanied by Soviet guards.
7. An artillery battalion of 14 Macedonian Infantry Regiment is stationed at the Krupnik railroad station with guns of unidentified caliber and heavy mortars on two-wheel carts. A small detachment of 20 to 30 Soviets at the station are believed to be guards for sensitive materiel.
8. An infantry battalion of 14 Infantry Regiment is reported at Simitli with

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mortars and heavy weapons of unspecified type.

9. The 7 Rila Infantry Division, with 30 to 40 small tanks, is based at Kyustendil with units between Kyustendil and the Yugoslav border. An artillery unit of unknown size is located in the mountain environs.
 10. During the first weeks of October heavier truck convoys of six to seven trucks each, were observed at Sveti Vrach heading toward the border loaded and returning empty.
 11. The Border Guard unit at Dobri Laki was increased from 100 to 250 men on 4 October.
 12. An infantry battalion at Pletvare (sic) held maneuvers on 1 and 2 October with heavy mortars, machine guns, grenades and small arms.
 13. [redacted] large ammunition depots were under construction on mountain tops in the Pirin, Rila and Stara Planina ranges. 50X1-HUM
 14. A unit of regiment size is located at the base of height 1710¹. [redacted] the unit is intending to stay there all winter because their tents are winterized. 50X1-HUM
 15. The government has ordered all communities near the Yugoslav border to ship harvests and foodstores to inland warehouses. 50X1-HUM
1. [redacted] Comment: [redacted]
[redacted] a unit of about 1,000 men at this location.

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